SCRIP TALK

Volume 43, Issue 182 | Fall Edition | September 2015

❖From Ye Ole Editor's Desk❖

It seems like every time I turn around it is time to get yet another Scrip Talk issue ready for the printers! Where does the time go??? Summer is now history and as you are reading this issue Fall is now upon us. My son, Rick, and I have been hitting the woods carrying on the age-old tradition of what the miners and their families here in the Mountain State have done for years to supplement their income – hunt ginseng. Ginseng, a plant native to West Virginia (as well as many other states) is said to have medicinal qualities and is prized in the Orient for its fleshy root. It has been harvested here for several hundred years. We go where the 'hollers' are deep and the mountains are steep, looking for those places where nobody in their right mind would ever venture. That's where the big "sang" can be found. Many of you know exactly what I am talking about. Often times we'll come across the remnants of old mining towns or operations. Given enough time nature reclaims her own.

--- *continued on Page 2*

Inside This Issue:

1 Letters (continued on page 2)
3 Billy's Corner "Buxton &Landstreet"
5 Steve's "Ole Timers" "Bob Shown, Sr."
6 Rita, Logan Co. WV by Billy Campbell
7 Recent eBay Sales, by Bill Fugera
8 Coosa Navigation & Coal Mining Co. Notes
9 "Cover Story" featuring Dave Schenkman
10-11 Research Reward!
12 Is it Coal Scrip or Merchant Token, or Both?
14 Trace Fork Coal Co., by Billy Campbell
15-16 New Finds
17 Other Token Organization News
18 Free Ads
19 NSCA Membership Application

Letter from the President

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, the NSCA will again hold its Fall Meeting in conjunction with the Charleston Coin Club at the Civic Center in downtown Charleston, West Virginia. Don Clifford will again be our host, and he will open the doors at 8AM, and we'll be there as long as NSCA members are havin' fun. The Holiday Inn across the street will be our host hotel(1 304 345 0600 or 1 800 HOLIDAY), and to receive the NSCA group discount of $102, please mention the Group Code "NSC" when you call for your reservation. Reservations must be made prior to October 6, 2015. The rate is good for November 6, 7 & 8. We have had a good turnout at this location in past years, we should again this Fall, and I look forward to seeing you in the Mountaineer State.

Speaking of our meetings, I recently heard from NSCA member Dick Wohlgemuth in Louisville that he and his wife Diane, along with NSCA Vice President Dennis Poland(Knoxville)had recently attended the annual convention of the American Vecturist Association(AVA), the folks who collect transportation tokens, in Dayton, and Dick shared two good ideas he picked up from the AVA.

First, the AVA moves their meeting about each year,and they rely on a committee composed of spouses who select the city where they will hold their meeting, a hotel, as well as side trips for attendees. The result? Most AVA members bring along a spouse who has lotsa things to do while the member is at the bourse tables, and the "swap meet" takes on a whole different complexion. In years past, as I recall, NSCA meetings were very much a "couples affair", with lots of spouses to enliven the conversation. And, we too deliberately moved our meeting locations around, with members vying to host the affair, and put on a local show of

continued on Page 2

"Letter from the President" continued from page 1

sorts. Your reaction?

The other idea Dick picked up from the AVA meet was the concept of awarding members in attendance a token reflecting their personal years of membership, e.g., Dennis and Dick each received a 10 Year AVA token, which they each took pride in. Others were picking up 30 and 40 Year tokens. Whacha think? Would this increase membership and attendance?

Lastly, let me acquaint everyone with the fact that NSCA Vice President Dave Schenkman not only presented the American Numismatic Association(ANA)meeting in Chicago in August with the beautiful color slide show of scrip which he put on for us last Spring in Pikeville, but Dave was also inducted into the ANA Hall of Fame, that organization's most prestigious award. Congrats Dave! See y'all in Charleston *Steve*

"From Ye Ole Editor's Desk" continued from page 1

Many excellent articles are to be found in this issue and my deepest thanks to our authors! It's not small task to sit down and put thoughts to paper and contribute to each issue.

If making a few extra bucks ginsenging is not your cup of tea, then be sure to check out the Research Reward posters in this issue. Here's your chance to cash-in on your knowledge! We're looking for "proof of coal mine connection" for 70+ listings and your reward is $100 cash for each listing you can provide the required proof. See the "wanted posters" in this issue for details. Make sure that you provide all the proof you can dig-up. The more you provide, the better chance you have of collecting your reward. We'll keep you posted if any of these 'villains' are rounded-up! I don't know about you, but I can almost hear the theme song to Clint Eastwood's movie "*The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*".

Keep me posted! ***Kevin***

Is it . . .?

Be sure to check your address label for the date through which your dues are paid so you don't miss out on any issues!

Send your dues renewal to:

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Billy's Corner

Buxton &Landstreet Store No. 3 exact location? DAVIS, WV

By BILLY W. CAMPBELL

Ed George on 7-4-15 brought up the question of the placement of Braeholm for the Buxton &Landstreet store No. 3 scrip, noting that the "B" cut out would seem to be Benbush scrip. Later Ed noted that all of Buxton &Landstreet stores were in the North part of the state and seems strange to only have one store in the South where Davis Coal & Coke Co. had no mines.

The ICS scrip records I have has store No. 3 ICS scrip was shipped to Thomas, but someone later (appears modern time) has written Braeholm on the records and that is where it was placed in the first edition of Edkins and it has been carried forward.

The ISC ledger records for MMISC scrip show that on 1-18-1926 four (4) orders were placed by Buxton &Lanndstreet and to be sent to:

Shipped to Davis the No. 3 store 1,000 pieces of brass with a "B" cutout, no town name
Shipped to Benbush 1,000 pieces nickel plate with a "B" cutout
Shipped to Pierce 2,000 pieces copper with a "P" cutout
Shipped to Thomas 2,000 pieces copper with a "T" cut out

Bradstreet records of 1919 hasCoketon listed with a population of 2,000 with a Buxton &Landstreet store, also Thomas one mile away had a Buxton &Landstreet store. The town of Kempton is not listed. Could the stores in 1919 located at Coketon and Thomas be the sameone? Davis &Braeholm had no Buxton &Landstreet store in 1919.

Bradstreet records of 1926 & 1927 have Buxton &Landstreet with stores in Benbush, Dartmoor, Davis, Henry, Pierce and Thomas. There was no listing in Braeholm for Buxton &Landstreet. There was neither a town listing for Coketonnor Kempton for those years in Bradstreet.

I have 40 pages of correspondence between ISC and Buxton &Landstreet. Beginning with an order for 1,000 pennies on sept 26,1925, to be shipped to "your Kempton store". On a June 28, 1928 Buxton &Landstreet letterhead the stores listed are Coketon, Benbush, Henry, pierce, Dartmoor, Davis, Kempton and Boswell, Pa. with a warehouse in Coketon.

Mystery solved, I have several thousand pages of West Virginia ISC correspondence letters. In researching the Buxton &Landstreet files I found a Buxton &Landstreet letterhead from the Davis Store ordering 1,000 Brass metal pennies on January 16, 1926, sample enclosed, with a typed note "Davis metal script is marked Store #3, letter B, and does not bear the name Davis", signed by John M. Carmody, general manager and to be shipped to Davis (see copy of invoice on following page).

Ed was correct, long time coming but the scrip will be removed from Braeholm and placed at Davis. Thanks, Ed.

❖ *Editor's Note: If anyone has any information on Buxton and Landstreet, please contact Ed George at egeorge88fiero@verizon.net*

166-4

ORIGINAL

Davis
743

The Buxton and Landstreet Company

Davis, W. Va.

Ingle-Schierloh Company,
4th Floor, Schwind Bldg.,
Dayton, Ohio.

January 16, 1936

Dear Sir:

Please ship the following order by

to THE BUXTON & LANDSTREET COMPANY, Davis *West Virginia. This order is placed from quotations received by , on 192 , and it is understood that we are protected against increase and are to receive the benefit of any decline.*

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE DELIVERED PRICE F. O. B.
1,000	Metal Script Pennies. Sample enclosed.	70,00
	Note- Davis metal script is marked Store #5, Letter B, and does not bear the name Davis.	
	#166-4	

Very truly yours,

[signature]

General Manager

Invoice covering this order to be rendered in triplicate, Original and Duplicate to be mailed to point of shipment. Triplicate mailed to office of General Manager, Thomas, W. Va. If order in whole or part can not be promptly shipped, notice to be made immediately to point of shipment and to General Manager. A strict compliance to above will be appreciated.

"Ole Timers"

By Steve Cawood

(This is a continuing series of interviews with long-time NSCA members.)

This edition of Scrip Talk's Ole Timers column is featuring Bob Shown, Sr., a collector of "flickers"(as coal company scrip tokens were known in West Kentucky and the Illinois Basin coalfield)from Beaver Dam, in Ohio County, Kentucky. And Bob Sr. is not to be confused with his son, Bob Junior, of Owensboro, also a NSCA member.

And speaking of Bob's son, Mr. Shown tells a delightful story of how his boy, when about 7 or 8 years old, introduced him to "flickers".(Bear in mind that by UMW District 23's contract the use of "checks", "scrip" or "flickers" had been largely abolished in the West Kentucky coalfields in the late '40s). Bob had heard of flickers, but had never seen any. It seems that one day many years ago, Bob Junior came along home one afternoon with a tin Sucrets box in hand, and when his Dad made inquiry, he showed him a little box with several pieces of Cooper Brothers (KY 185C)"flickers" , which he explained to his Dad that he had swapped for "2 dimes and a bullfrog"! Bob Junior started out as one heck of a scrip trader, and 2 dimes and a bullfrog worth of flickers had gotten Bob Senior hooked! (I failed to extract the full story on how Dad managed to acquire the treasure in the Sucrets tin!)

Bob began asking around about these tokens and was referred to Claude Travis over in Muhlenberg County, and Claude recruited him into the NSCA in the mid-70s. At an early meeting in West Virginia, or perhaps one at Berea, Claude introduced him to Walter Caldwell, Paul Jenson, "Tippy", Crawford Blakeman and others, and his favorite memories of our club reflect on the warmth, friendship and comraderyexperienced at these gatherings, and the member's willingness to help and advise one another, as well as learning at these meetings how the tokens were interwoven with the history of the mines where they were issued, and the lives of the men whose families came to be dependent upon them, the history being critical to his interest.

Bob Shown came by our hobby "honestly", having spent a career working as a UMWA miner in the surface and deep mines of Ohio County, and a brief excursion up into Pike County on a mine construction project.

Bob's collecting interest focuses narrowly on Ohio County(where it's said that his collection is the best in existence), and the surrounding counties in the West Kentucky coalfield. When asked about his favorite flickers, he quickly replied that those would be the bi-metal tokens issued by the Beaver Dam Coal Company(KY 2758A100,500&1000)and the West Kentucky Coal Company(KY 865A 5-100)which employed a copper center ring, rather than the aluminum center on most bi-metals. And too, he's fond of his Mary Helen $20 dollar token from far-away Harlan County. Bob is recognized by West Kentucky collectors as being THE authority on the history of the Speed Family's Beaver Dam Coal Company.

As to the NSCA's future, I think it's safe to say that Bob would like for us all to do whatever we can to engender more opportunities for us to get to know one another better, and learn from one another, as well as a renewed focus on the history of the use of our tokens. Thanks Bob for sharing whenever you can with all who wanna learn about the flickers of West Kentucky!

Steve Cawood, 127 Ridgewood Circle, Pineville,Kentucky 40977 (606 337 6622)

Rita, Logan County BILLY W. CAMPBELL 9-1-2015

More research on Logan Chilton Coal Co. using the original ISC journal and correspondence order and invoice, reveled that on August 4, 1939 Southern Grocery Company, Inc. Wholesale of 302 East Campbell Avenue, Roanoke, VA. ordered
500 Brass Nickels
500 Brass Dimes
300 Brass Quarters
To be stamped Logan Chilton Coal Company, Good Only For Merchandise. There is a handwritten note "previous lot had IN TRADE". The ISC journal had recorded
500 Brass Pennies
500 Brass Nickels
300 Brass Dimes
Other mintages numbers are correct. Below is the corrected catalogue.

RITA 2411 (Logan)

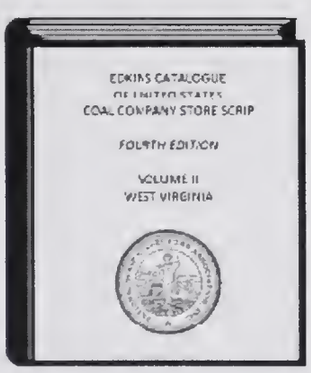
LOGAN CHILTON COAL CO./5

	A5a	B	20	Rd	Sd1,000	MMISC Des. Pat./In Trade		R-6
A5b	**B**	**20**	**Rd**	**Sd**	**500**	**/In Merchandise**		**R-6**
	A10a	B	21	Rd	Sd500/In Merchandise		R-8	
A10b	**B**	**21**	**Rd**	**Sd**	**500**	**/In Trade**		**R-8**
	A25a	B	24	Rd	Sd300/In Merchandise		R-7	
A25b	**B**	**24**	**Rd**	**Sd**	**150**	**MMISC Pat. Pend. /In Trade**		**R-9**
	A50	B	27	Rd	Sd	**100/In Trade**	R-10	
	A100	B	35	Rd	Sd	**200**	**/In Trade**	R-8

WANTED! Top prices paid for your scrip collection no mater how large or small!
I am always in the market to add collections and accumulations to my existing stock.
Especially wanted scrip and tokens from Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky.
Call Doug Tolley at 304-253-0613 or email me at dtolley@suddenlink.net.

The National Scrip Collectors Assn. Bookshelf

If you collect Coal Scrip, Lumber Tokens or
Explosive Control Tokens (Exploders),
then these books are a MUST!



NEW!

Edkins, Vol. I, 4th Ed., 2015 (all states except WV)$45 + $5 S&H
Edkins, Volume II, 4th Ed., 2014 (WV).....$45 plus $5 S&H
Trantow's Lumber Catalogue ..... $35 plus$5 S&H
Schenkman's Exploder Catalogue..... $25 plus$5 S&H

NSCA Members receive a $5 discount on all books!

Order Yours Today!

Send you order with payment to:
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7392 Big Ridge Rd, Haysi, VA 24256
email: fennieandpatsyt@hotmail.com

RECENT EBAY SALES--August, 2015

By Bill Fugera

Shelby Steam Coal, Shelbiana, Ky., 2576, B10, ----- $319.59

Main Island Creek, Omar, WV., 2123, A25, ----- $232.43

Acme Coal Co., Acme, Wy., 11, A10, ----- $97.70

The Peach Orchard Coal Co., Peach Orchard, Ky., 2193, A5, ----- $199.00

Red Jacket Consol., Red Jacket, 2369, C50, ----- $83.39

F. E. Summers Dept. Store , Rumble, WV., 2483, A100, ----- $92.45

Low Vol. Coal, Concho, WV., 647, B500, ----- $137.55

Preston Supply, Preston, WV., 2287, A5, ----- $129.21

Low Moor Iron Co., Lowmoor, Va., 1692, A100, ----- $182.17

The Beaver Coal C. & M. Co., Drift, Ky., 841, B50, ----- $129.00

The Red Parrot Coal Co., Prenter, WV., 2283, E50a, ----- $82.50

Yukon Pocahontas Coal Co., Yukon, WV., 3123, C10, ----- $74.26

Have you seen any outstanding eBay sales lately? Report your finds to Bill Fugera at:

fugewilj@cox.net

Scrip Talk Advertising Rates

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One half page----- $14
Full page----- $24

Make check payable to "NSCA" and send with your ad to:
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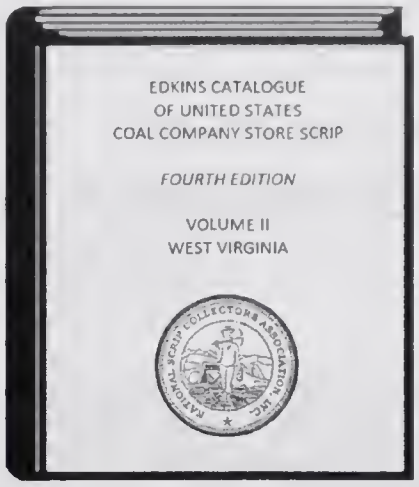


Edkins 4th Edition Volume II, WV Changes, Corrections & Additions

When is a catalogue really finished? The answer is a simple one --- *never*! Catalogs such as the Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip are necessarily always going to be a "work in progress". Aside from the inevitable corrections here and there, new finds will surface for many years to come.

Billy Campbell has graciously offered to provide via email to anyone requesting it, his list of "Changes, Corrections & Additions" that he has compiled since the 4th Edition was published. If you would like an emailed copy of the "Changes, Corrections & Additions", send Billy your request to: bwcok@knology.netand he will send you the email attachment containing the updated information.

New Finds . . .

While on the subject of updates, let us know if you have any new finds to report! In the spirit of sharing such information we all gain a better understanding of our hobby.

Your can email your New Finds information to

Billy Campbell [WV] at: bwcok@knology.net, or

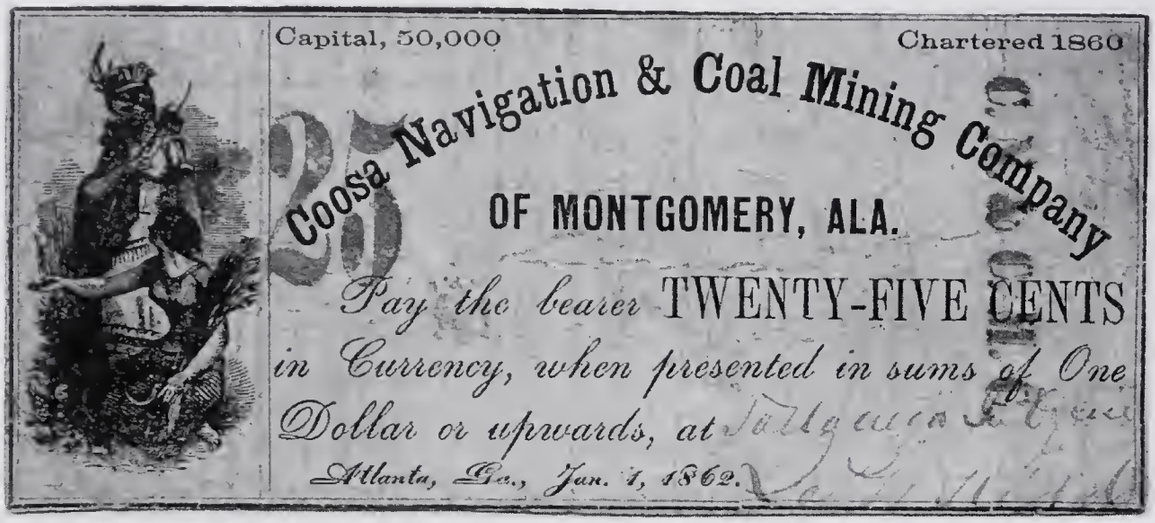
Bill Fugera [All States] at: fugewilj@cox.net

Be sure to include as much information as you can and ideally a scan or photograph (preferably in color) of both sides of your token. Diameter, metal composition, complete obverse text and reverse die type, whether solid or pierced (and description of piercing). New finds will be reported in future issues of Scrip Talk and will be used to update future editions of the catalogues. *Your input is essential in this department!*

INTERESTING MINING MONEY

COOSA NAVIGATION AND COAL MINING COMPANY NOTES

by David E. Schenkman



Although I've known for years about the paper scrip issued in 1862 by the Coosa Navigation and Coal Mining Company of Montgomery, Alabama, I had never even seen an illustration of one until earlier this year, when no less than five denominations were offered for sale by Heritage Auctions. They were part of a huge collection of obsolete notes from Georgia. I was able to purchase three of the five notes.

The company was located in Alabama, so why were they included as part of a collection of Georgia obsolete currency? Well, as you can, the words "Atlanta, Ga." are at the lower left on the illustrated note. Evidently the appearance of those two words was enough for the collector, even though the notes were obviously used at Talladega, Alabama.

As stated in its act of incorporation on February 24, 1860 in Alabama, this company's business was to "clear away the obstructions to the navigation by steamboats of the Coosa river from the Ten Islands to Fort Williams, and to open up and develop the coal beds in St. Clair county, and ship such coal to market, and to this end, said company shall have power to purchase any number of slaves which may be necessary to employ in clearing away said obstructions in said river, and opening said coal beds and raising and shipping coal from the same, and may contract for the hiring of any number of hands for this purpose..." It also specifies that "said company shall have no power to issue notes or bills to circulate as money." Fortunately for collectors, this section of the act was ignored.

The 25, 50, and 75 cents notes are identical, except for the denomination. The two dollar and three dollar tokens have a different vignette at the left side, with the words "Stream Presses, Atlanta, Ga." below. The wording in the center are "PAY THE BEARER THREE DOLLARS IN CONFEDERATE NOTES, WHEN PRESENTED IN SUMS OF FIVE DOLLARS OR UPARDS, AT THE OFFICE OF TALLADEGA INSURANCE CO." And, vertically at the left, are the words "RECEIVABLE FOR SALT AT KIDD'S SALT WORKS, IN CLARK COUNTY, ALABAMA."

Coal company obsolete currency such as this predates metal scrip, in some cases by several decades; at least one company issued notes as early as the 1820s. In most cases the survival rate is very low, since notes are much more fragile than metal tokens. I've collected them for many years and have learned that locating them is much more difficult than paying for them. It takes a lot of patience!

"Cover Story"

Men and women engaged in politics, and others in all sorts of leadership positions, dream of being the feature of a cover story on the front page of TIME, or of even a trade journal serving their industry, or profession, but rarely does a hobbyist, a collector, let alone a scrip collector find themselves on a cover. But there's a nice color photograph of Dave Schenkman on the September/October issue of the TAMS Journal, in recognition of his having been inducted into the American Numismatic Association's(ANA) Hall of Fame, that organization's most prestigious honor. The induction took place at the ANA's annual meeting near Chicago in July.

Interestingly enough to scrip collectors, in a selfish sorta way, should be the fact that at that same ANA meeting in July, one of the featured presentations was Dave's color slide show on rare and unusual mining scrip, the same show he put on at our dinner meeting in Pikeville last Spring. With hundreds of very serious coin collectors from all over America in attendance, scrip collecting could not get a bigger boost than that anywhere that we can imagine.

Scrip collectors know Dave as THE authority (and author) on exploders, and as a collector of rare,unusual old coal scrip, but he's the author of eight books, each of which is considered a standard reference, more than 200 articles on tokens and medals , and he acts as a contributing editor for "The Numismatist'; Dave has been the recipient of the American Venturist Association's(AVA)Literary Award, and at least twice, the NSCA's Literary Award. Dave currently has a revision of his "Virginia Tokens" at the printer, and due out this Fall, and he is working on an all-new book on paper scrip.

Did you know . . .

The company store of Peerless Coal & Coke Co., Vivian, W.V. started using penny boxes of matches, similar to the type depicted here, instead of scrip pennies as change?

A good friend of mine recalled that the store manager at Vivian told him that he quit ordering scrip pennies and instead just used boxes of matches in place of the pennies that would have been rendered in change.

There was a large box of these matches on the counter next to the register. It actually made good sense because everyone needed matches for wood/coal burning stoves, cigarettes, etc. and everyone carried a box of matches with them. Too, the store manager not only was able to "sell" more matches in doing this, he didn't have to invest in having scrip pennies made. Recall that the cost of making scrip for the lower denominations was very close per token regardless of the denomination. How many other stores utilized this practice???

WHERE is your FREE AD???? See page 18 for details! This is the special feature of Scrip Talk where YOU can BUY, SELL, or TRADE!

RESEARCH REWARD!
$100.00 PER STORE

Like a real challenge? You got it!!!! Edkins Vol II West Virginia catalogue has the following 71 out of 398 stores listed as coal connected in some way that needs more precise information. There is a committee of four that will judge information supplied by **YOU** that must prove without a doubt that any store in the list below is coal or coal related. **Your** reward will be **$100.00** cash per store for this proof. In the event of multiple entries of same store, date **and** content will be part of the judging process, only one proof positive winner per store. Edkins has c/s listings for most of the stores below in Vol II, those and David E. Schenkman's "West Virginia Merchant Token" book are good starting points but, not proof positive enough to prove or disprove Edkins listings for this challenge. All references must be listed in the proof and where possible a copy is to be provided showing the coal connection. **The intent is to only prove coal** and not to delete any store from Edkins at this time. Challenge will expire Jan 1, 2016 so start now researching!!! All replies are to be sent to:
KEVIN ANDERSEN, P.O. BOX 675, OAK HILL, WV 25901 or newrivercanyon@suddenlink.net

ABNEY 5 ABNEY BARGIN STORE
ACCOVILLE 7 WHITE BROS. GROCERY
ACCOVILLE 7 W. E. CONN GENERAL MERCHANDISE
ALBERT 35 JOE GREEKO
AUSTEN 131 AUSTEN MEAT MARKET
BARRACKVILLE 161 S. S. DUNN
BLAINE 292 THE BLAINE MERCHANTILE CO.
BLAKELY 296 O. A. DUNBAR & SONS
BLUEFIELD 310 PATSY SMALL & COMPANY
BUCHANNON 398 H. A. & O. L. CASTO
CASSVILLE 505 W. S. TENNANT
CENTURY 521 E. M. CHANNEL & THE UNION STORE
COFOCO 623 J. S. DOWNEY
CROWN 702 HENSLEY & SCOTT
DARTMONT 733 T. A. JONES
DIANA 759 D. R. COOL & DIANA STORE
EAGLE 861 E. DALPORTO STORE
ESKDALE 963 C. CASSEM GEN. STORE
EVERSON 981 W. H. MANLEYS MEAT MARKET
FARMINGTON 995 W. H. DAWSON
FAYETTEVILLE 997 CARTER BROS. & PHIPPS SUPPLY COMPANY

FLEMINGTON 1031 STEVE ANNESE
FREEMAN 1065 C. M. NOWLIN
HARTLAND 1245 W. J. ARBOGAST & F. D. COLEBANK
HOWESVILLE 1359 H. AYERMAN
JAVINS 1431 E. T. JAVINS
JERE 1445 SCOTTSDALE GROCERY CORP.
KISTLER 1531 ECONOMY SUPERMARKET
KISTLER 1531 D. A. DAMERON & CO.
LAREW 1569 J. M. D. STORES
LICO 1633 W. F. GRIFFITH
LYONSVILLE 1709 LYONS STORE CO.& TABIT & CLONCH
MAHAN 1745 G. C. LEWIS
MAIDSVILLE 1747SMYTH BROS.
MARTING 1797 G. J. LEWIS GENERAL MERCHANDISE
MONONGAH 1943 L. M. KUHN
MORGANTOWN 1957 MINERS PROVISION
NOLAN 2079 NORTHEAST LUMBER CO. & SARA RUNYON
PEACH CREEK 2191 HURST BRANCH STORE
PINE BLUFF 2225 ANDY BARTUS STORE & GUY AUDIA STORE
PRENTER 2283 PRENTER MERCHANTILE CO.
QUICK 2324 FRED SHAMBLIN
RAMAGE 2347 HAGER & WORKMAN
RIVESVILLE 2415 SUNBEAM CASH STORE
ROMNEY 2451 RIVERSIDE MERCHANTILE CO.
RONCEVERTE 2453 SENECA STORES
ROSSMORE 2467 C. B. WHITE
SABRATON 2491 JOHYN BLACK
SETH 2555 B. D. BANKS
SHARPLES 2573 COMMUNITY CLUB
SHAW 2574 A. G. Mc CAULEY
SHINNSTON 2579 THE JAMES STORE
SISTERVILLE 2595 THE BIG STORE & CRAWFORD CO.
THURMOND 2791 COLLINS CO-OPERTIVE CO.
TUNNELTON 2845 SHARPS STORE &TUNNELTON SUPPLY CO.
WAYSIDE 2957 SMITH'S VARIETY STORE
WEAVER 2959 WILLETTE SUPPLY CO.
WEBSTER SPRINGS 2961 CUTLIPS STORE
WEIRWOOD 2963 WEIRWOOD
WEST HAMBLIN 2991 WEST HAMBLIN MERC. CO.
WINONA 3069 C. W. HORROCKS
WOODVILLE 3088 W. H. TURLEY

Is It Coal Scrip or Merchant Token? Or Both?

By Kevin Andersen

Among the many different tokens encountered we sometimes face the question of whether some tokens once thought to be coal scrip were in fact merchant tokens. Obviously, tokens with a coal company name on them are easy to discern. The trouble begins when the token bears only a name plus "mercantile" or "store", just to name a few examples. Some of our catalog listings are what we would call a "legacy listing", meaning that it was listed a long time ago and no records survive to tell us why it was so listed. Oftentimes it was simply word of mouth, where someone at that time stated that they know for a fact that a certain token was used at a certain place. And so we now spend our time re-evaluating some tokens to try to identify how they should be characterized.

In this search for information, is it possible that a token can actually be both coal scrip and merchant token? The short answer is "yes". Back in 1928 in West Virginia, a case* went the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals that looked at the question of whether the plaintiff, one A.H. Legg, could recoup certain monies from the Junior Mercantile Company (hereinafter "JMC") for tokens in Mr. Legg's possession. Legg acquired the tokens from other individuals, probably accepting them at a discounted rate as was the practice of the day. JMC refused on several grounds, which is beyond the scope of this article.

What is of interest to us as token collectors are some of the details reported in the case. First, a nice description is given of the token in question, which was stated to be:

"On one side is the following:

"Master Metal Scrip 100 Ingle-Schierloh Co. Dayton, O. Pat Pend In Mdse Only."

and on the other side is the following:

"Junior Mercantile Company JMCo Redeemable in Mdse only 1.00"

The Court went on to identify some facts regarding where the tokens were used and how they were used. We find that Court stating "The coal company operates a coal mine near Glen Ferris in Fayette County, and the mercantile company conducted its mercantile business in the same town in the year 1926 when the scrip was issued. When the coal company was incorporated it acquired all the stock of the mercantile company and has at all time since owned that stock except shares sufficient to qualify the directors. It appears that the mercantile company in the conduct of its business issued these metal discs to its customers indiscriminately, for instance, as change for cash, and the like. It was also a practice for it to issue scrip to those employees of the coal company who had assigned to it by written assignment wages then due or to become due from the coal company and which assignment has been accepted by the coal company. When the assignment of wages had been made and accepted the employees of the coal company would make purchases on the strength thereof and for the balance these metal discs were delivered to the employees; and at the next pay-day of the coal company the mercantile company would collect the amount so assigned in cash."

The Court went on to state "The persons to whom the coin, now owned and held by plaintiff, was originally issued are now unknown and *may, or may not have been employees* of the "West Virginia Coal & Coke Company." [*original emphasis*]

If there was any question as to the connection between the Junior Mercantile Company and the West Virginia Coal & Coke Company, a December, 1936 article in *Coal Age*** resolved it "The problem of coordination in the West Virginia Coal & Coke organization is not only one of interdepartmental activities but also of interorganization functions. Four separate corporate units are combined in the set-up. The parent organization is West Virginia Coal & Coke Corporation, which is directly responsible for the operation of the mining properties in Logan, Barbour, Braxton and Randolph counties, West Virginia." The article then goes on to state: "A third corporation –the Junior Mercantile Co.—controls the operation of the stores; . . ." Even though Fayette County was not included in the list above, earlier in the article it tells us that "When the West Virginia Coal & Coke Co. assumed control of the consolidated properties on Jan. 1, 1925, to took possession of fourteen operating mines in Logan County and two in Fayette County. Nine of these mines, including Glen Ferris, in Fayette County, had been part of the Hutchinson string; the other six had been Main Island Creek Coal Co. mines. Today the West Virginia Coal & Coke Corporation operates only six mines in Logan County and the Fayette County mines are completely out of the picture."

What we learn from all this is that the Junior Mercantile Co. handled these tokens as not only "scrip" for the West Virginia Coal & Coke Co. employees, but it also gave out these tokens in change to regular customers as "merchant tokens." We also learn that the tokens currently identified as Edkins #2123 "B series" also have a place under the listing for Glen Ferris, WV (Edkins #1129).

Epilogue: In case you were wondering, Mr. Legg lost his case. In the end the Court found that it could not grant the relief he sought (cash in exchange for the scrip) because there was no way to determine whether the tokens came from regular customers or West Virginia Coal & Coke employees, or what percentage of each. There was just no reasonable way to make such a determination. The reasoning being that if the tokens were purchased from regular customers (i.e. not coal company employees) Mr. Legg would not be entitled to a money judgment, but, if it was from coal company employees, he would be entitled to money judgment. The burden of proof rested upon the shoulders of the plaintiff. His loss, however, is our gain, in that we are given an interesting and clearer picture of token usage in the coalfields!

*A.H.Legg v. Junior Mercantile Company, 105 W.Va. 287 (1928)
***Coal Age*, December, 1936 Vol. 41, No. 12

POND CREEK COLLIERY of N. &W. RY. CO.BILLY W. CAMPBELL

As I was going through the 1929 Keystone Coal Buyers catalog and Directory on page 773, Pond Creek Collieries of N. & W. Ry. Co. is listed in Bluefield, West Virginia with a P. O. in Williamson, W. VA. Mingo County. There is the following denotation,
Pond Creek Colliery
Location Pike Co., Ky.

There is no mention in the 1929 West Virginia Annual Report of the Department of mines of Pond Creek Collieries of N. & W. Ry. Co.

Scrip is listed in Edkins Volume I located in New Camp (Pike) KY.

SEE page 10 and 11 for a SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for you to CASH-IN by simply supplying coal mine connection information pertaining to the tokens listed.
Don't miss out on this round-up! See the "Wanted Posters" on pages 10 & 11 for details!

TRACE FORK COAL CO.

By Billy W. Campbell

In a discussion with Mr. Donald Clifford about Trace Fork Coal co. and how Edkins list the scrip in his book "Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Store Scrip, third edition Volume II", I looked at the research material on hand to find the following.

Edkins has listed on page 291, Trace Fork 2821 [Kanawha} as the location for Trace Fork Coal Co

.

Dodrill in his book "20,000 Coal Company Stores" on page 254 items T330 & 331 has Trace Fork Coal Co. listed in Mullens from 1914 to 1918 and Tracoal from 1919 to 1925.

Ingle records which Mr. John Byars so graciously, forwarded me a copy of what he has, indicate that Trace Fork Coal Co. placed a order [#4304] for scrip in 1918 to be sent to Mullens, W. Va.

In the book "IMAGES of AMERICA, WYOMING COUNTY" by Ed Robinson on page 28, In a statement about coal town name changes has this to say about Trace Fork. Trace Fork Coal Co. was the coal operator and **originally** named the town Trace Fork. The post office rejected the name and it was renamed Tracoal. Other names of this town were Harmco and Nuriva.

The Bradstreet records that I have list Trace Fork Coal Co. in Mullens in 1919 and 1920. From 1921 to 1924 Trace Fork Coal Co. is listed in Tracoal as the only business with a population of 200 and was 5 miles from Mullens in Wyoming County. I have found no camp or town named Trace Fork, however there was a town named Track Fork in Kanawha County with a population of 10 during the Trace Coal Co. period.

The website of West Virginia Office of Miners Health Safety and Training has Trace Fork Coal Co. in operation from 1914 to 1923.

The website of West Virginia place names has Trace Fork in Kanawha County in 1950 with a [?] question mark. Also has, Trace Fork in Wyoming County in 1918 with a [?] question mark. Tracoal is listed as being established in 1920.

West Virginia Annual Report Department of Mines has Trace Fork Coal Co. mine No.1 in operation at Mullens from 1913 to1918 and all other years mine No 1 as being in Tracoal until 1924.

Edkins catalogue is correct in the name of Trace Fork, but the county should be Wyoming not Kanawha.

Note: The rarity of the $1.00 piece should be modified to R-9. Also, another observation worthy of note is that some of the dollar pieces have a circular piercing (hole), the reason of which is not known at this time.

New Finds!

Book Page	*Town*	*Description*
PG 259	SEWELL	**DAVIS/SUPPLY/COMPANY**
		B5 A 29 ScSd Good For/5/In Merchandise
B10 B 29 Rd Sd Good For/10/In/Merchandise		
B25 A 32 Rd Sd		
PG 259	SETH	B25 Bi 28 Rd Sd
PG 259	SHAMROCK	A1b C 18 Rd Co
PG 263	SHARON	L1 Fr 16 Rd Co Orco 1944
PG 266	SILUSH	C50 NP 30 Rd Co (cstp) LB
C100 B 36 Rd Co (cstp) LB		
PG 269	SLAGLE	A25c N 24 Rd Co
PG 270	SPRAGUE	CHANGE C1a FROM 3500 MINTED TO 3000
		C1b B 18 RdSd**500 MINTED** MMISC PAT. PEND.
PG 272	SPRINGTON	B25 B 24 Rd Co
PG 276	STONE BRANCH	B1 NP 17 Rd Co
PG 286	TAMS	A50 A 30 Rd Co
PG 287	TERRY	A1 A 17 OcSd
PG 292	TRALEE	H1 B 17 Rd Co
PG 305	WEST END	A100 A 35 Rd Sd Good For/100/In Merchandise cstp 1909
PG 305	**WEVACO 2996 (Kanawha)**	
	CARBON FUEL COMPANY/WEST VA./NO.1/STORE BOTTLE/5¢/CHECK	
A5 A 21 RdSd		
PG 307	WHEELING	110 B 21 RdSd Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. (when due)
PG 312	WILLIAMSON	D25 B 26 OcSd
PG 316	WINONA	B1b A 20 RdSd Good For/1¢/In/Merchandise
		F5a B
		F5b N 19 Rd Co
		F5c NP 19 Rd Co
PG 320	YUKON	B25 B 24 Rd Co
		B50 B 30 Rd Co
		B100 B 35 Rd Co
		C500 B 35 Rd Co

**These New Finds were reported by New Finds Editor Billy Campbell.
Stay tuned as there will be more to come in future issues! Better yet, why not add some yourself!

Also, one reader reports this new find described as follows:
"OKEY MEADOWS / 100 / REDWINE, KY. 1920" Token has two holes (one above and one below the "100"). Doddrill's *20,000 Coal Co. Stores* book reports Okey Meadows Inc. Mine emp. 25 from 1923-24

New Finds (continued)

COAL SCRIP

COAL CITY, ILLINOIS, 600, GRUNDY
Big Four Wilmington Coal Co. / 5 / (Signature) /Treas.
A5 21mm Rd Sd
Good In Trade Only At Stores Designated By The Company / 5

MARSELLES, ILLINOIS, 1794, La Salle
Illinois Valley Coal Company / T. J. Schulz (signature) President
A100 35mm Bi Rd Sd
Good In Trade Only At Stores Designated By The Company / 100

CASS, INDIANA, 504, GREENE
Monon Coal Co. / H. N. Taylor (signature) PRES.
B10 25mm Bi Rd Sd
Good In Trade Only At Stores Designated By The Company / 10

COALFIELD, IOWA, 607, MONROE
Miller Creek Coal Co. / Pay / Check
A10 124mm Bi Rd Sd
Good For / 10c / In Merchandise

WOOLDRIDGE, TENNESSEE, 3091, CAMPBELL
Jellico Mt. Coal & Coke Co. / 5 / Merchandise / 1883
5 18mm Ni Rd Sd
12 Stars

CARYVILLE, TENNESSEE, 501, CAMPBELL
The Diamond Coal Mining Co. / To Pay / Market / Purchase / 1 / Not Issued / For Wages
J1b 18mm Ni Rd Sd
MMISC Des. Pat. / In Trade

POTOMAC MANOR, WEST VIRGINIA, 2261, MINERAL
Potomac Manor Supply Co.
A100 39mm Bi Rd Sd
Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

These new finds were sent to me by Mr. Thomas Casper of Muskego, Wisconsin. Mr. Casper purchased both new Edkins Catalogues and saw that the above pieces of scrip he owned were not listed. He contacted Fennie Thacker who referred Mr. Casper to me. Thanks Thomas for your contribution. We hope to convince you some day to join the NSCA.

**These New Finds were reported by New Finds Editor Bill Fugera.
Be sure to report all new finds to either of our New Finds Editors!

NSCA Website:
http://nationalscripcollectors.org

Indiana-Kentucky-Ohio Token Society
Friday Oct 2 (10am - 6 pm)
Saturday Oct 3 (9 am - 2 pm)

American Legion Post #707 Banquet Hall
(enter from rear parking lot)
200 West National Road (US40)
Englewood, OH 45322

Legion Hall is 2 miles from
intersection of I-70 & SR 48

Mailbid auction closes with
Live bidding Saturday12:30 pm
No admission charge
Dinner available at Legion Hall Friday night
Security provided Friday night for bourse room
Auction item can be seen on website

Website
IKOTAMS.org or IKOTAMS.com

Show contact:
Dave Gossett
PO Bx 372
Miamisburg, OH 45343
email---sue26gossett@donet.com

Auction Contact:
Terry Stahurski
549 Mapleview Dr.
Seven Hills, OH 44131
phone: 216/573-0761

PLASTIC NSCA SHOW TOKENS

I started collecting the plastic and metal NSCA show tokens a few years ago. I was helped a great deal by many members, some of who I must mention. Patsy Thacker, Walter Caldwell and Crawford Blakeman were instrumental in my obtaining information and some very hard to find NSCA tokens. In asking when the plastic show tokens were first started, that information had been lost to father time (I know how easy that is). Recently while reviewing old Scrip Talk issues I came across in the July, 1980 issue

"A regular meeting of the executive committee of the National Scrip Collectors Association was held on Friday may 2, 1980 at the Holiday Inn, Beckley, West Virginia. Present were; W. E. Williams, President, C. F. Colley, Charles Rogers and C. H. Blakeman - Vice Presidents; and Walter Caldwell, Secretary- Treasurer. President Williams declared a quorum present for the transaction of business. President Williams announced two membership stimulators and following proper motion, the committee approved the project. (1) A W. VA. glass paperweight will be prepared for sale to members at each may meeting featuring a mining scene logo. It was noted that only 12 were made for the Hawk's Nest meeting last year and only 20 was made for the Beckley meeting. After purchase of these, the dies were destroyed. (2) A plastic token featuring the logo of NSCA and the meeting site will be prepared for each meeting and will be given to each member registering for the event. Too, the tokens will be available for each new member signed only to the time of the following six month's meeting at which time the remaining tokens will be destroyed." In the same issue W. E. Williams, president's corner he said,

"For the May meeting last year at Hawk's Nest, Scriptor Harold Lee of Morgantown arranged with John Gentile of Gentile's Glass Works to make 12 paperweights from a special die showing a coal miner going to work. Seven were sold. This year I asked Harold to arrange for another special weight for the Beckley meeting. They made 20 and destroyed the die. The weight shows the date and location of the meeting and includes a crossed pick and axe depicting both coal and lumber aspects of NSCA. First edition weights were sold for $3o each. A new (plastic) token is planned for each semi-annual meeting. If you want one you must come to the meeting. None will be sold by NSCA."

Now I and you know, the first plastic token was made for the NSCA May 3, 1980 meeting. I think it was Walter Caldwell after he and I talked about the show token just surprised me by sending me a Hawk's Nest paperweight. Now I am in the market for a Beckley 1980 paperweight.

Billy W. Campbell

What's your story? Why not submit your article to Scrip Talk? Whether your interest is Coal Scrip, Lumber Tokens, Merchant Tokens, Explosive Control Tokens, Paper Scrip or Picture Scrip (or any other form of token in between), Scrip Talk wants to hear from you! Anything from a few lines to several pages, all input is welcome. Even if you just want to write a "Letter to the Editor", we'll gladly share with the readership. Let us hear from you!

N.S.C.A. FREE ADS FOR MEMBERS

Free Ads are available to **N.S.C.A.** members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. **Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK**. All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to **SCRIP TALK** Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. **SEND**

ALL FREE ADS TO: Donald K. Clifford, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065 or E-mail: clff635@aol.com (**Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.) 3-15**

LET ME KNOW WHICH LIST YOU WANT – Civil War Tokens, Encased Cents, Elongated Cents, Casino chips, Trade or Sell, Request List: **Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220** +

WANTED – Would like to talk to collectors of Logan, Boone & Kanawha County, West Virginia coal scrip. (Show & Tell or Meet & Eat). I have many spares to trade, **Tom Perry, (304-768-2941) Or Email: tperry4@suddenlink.net** +

WANTED: West Virginia Merchant tokens, Lumber tokens, & Greenbrier County Coal Scrip. Send a listing with your prices. **Don Clifford, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065 Or Email: clff635@aol.com** +

WANTED: MULENBERG COUNTY, KY & SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COAL SCRIP: **Chuck Eyman, 1511 Maplecrest Drive, Champaign, IL 61821 (217-552-2266)** +

WANTED: WEST VIRGINIA COAL & LUMBER scrip from Nicholas, Webster & Clay Counties. Contact: **Dan Bragg, P.O. Box 1755, Craigsville, WV 26205** (304-618-9410) or Email: idan46@hotmail.com+

FOR SALE: Assorted tokens, medals and exonumia – Free 76 page fixed price offering available for the asking. **Norman Peters, P.O. Box 29, Lancaster, NY 14086**

WANTED: KENTUCKY, VIRGINIA & W.VA.COAL & LUMBER SCRIP. Email or send list to Doug Tolley, 206 Michigan Avenue, Beckley, WV 25801 (email: dtolley@suddenlink.net). +

A REMINDER, "+" AFTER YOUR AD MEANS
IT IS TIME TO RENEW

ABOUT THE

NATIONAL SCRIP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Membership in the NSCA entitles a collector to a subscription to the club's newsletter, SCRIP TALK, featuring articles on the history of scrip, coal and lumber companies who issued scrip, unusual tokens and the die makers and manufacturers who produced it, free classified ads for members, and timely news on NSCA activities, plans and publications. NSCA meetings are held each Spring and Fall, generally somewhere in the Appalachian coalfields, and members meet to trade, buy, sell and swap scrip and coal mining paraphernalia of all sorts, conduct the club's business meetings, and enjoy the company of members from around the country.

The NSCA also revises, publishes and sells the principal books which are the "tools of the trade" for scrip collectors, and one or more of these books are often made a part of a membership package for new members, the details of which may be obtained by contacting our NSCA Secretary. Membership and/or books may be purchased by using the ORDER BLANK below, and mailing it to:

Garrett Salyers, *Secretary*
86 McKenzie Lane
Olive Hill, Ky. 41164
606 316 0485
gsalyers@hotmail.com

NATIONAL SCRIP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to:

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86 McKenzie Lane
Olive Hill, Ky. 41164

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone #: _____

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*** dues subject to change

$5.95

SCRIP TALK

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